

## TWELVE COMMENTS BY THOMAS PAINE THAT SHED LIGHT ON OUR PRESENT DILEMMAS

**"Men who look upon themselves as born to reign, and others to obey, soon grow insolent. Selected from the rest of mankind, their minds are early poisoned by importance; and the world they act in differs so materially from the world at large, that they have but little opportunity of knowing its true interests." *Thomas Paine***

**"When it shall be said in any country in the world, 'My poor are happy; neither ignorance nor distress is to be found among them; my jails are empty of prisoners, my streets of beggars; the aged are not in want, the taxes are not oppressive . . . when these things can be said, then may that country boast of its constitution and its government.'" *Thomas Paine***

**"Give to every other human being the right that you claim for yourself – that is my doctrine." *Thomas Paine***

**"When, in countries that are called civilized, we see age going to the workhouse and youth to the gallows, something must be wrong in its system of government."  
*Thomas Paine***

**"Instead of gazing at each other with suspicious or doubtful curiosity, let each of us hold out to his neighbor the hearty hand of friendship, and unite in drawing a line, which, like an act of oblivion, shall bury in forgetfulness every former dissension. Let [no other labels] be heard among us, than those of a good citizen, an open and resolute friend, and a virtuous supporter of the RIGHTS of MANKIND, and of the FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES OF AMERICA." *Thomas Paine***

**"He that would make his own liberty secure must guard even his enemy from oppression; for if he violates this duty he establishes a precedent that will reach to**

himself." *Thomas Paine*

"As to religion, I hold it to be the indispensable duty of government to protect all conscientious professors thereof, and I know of no other business which government hath to do therewith. . . I fully and conscientiously believe that it is the will of the Almighty that there should be a diversity of religious opinions among us." And on a more personal note, he said "My mind is my own church. . . I believe that religious duties consist in doing justice, loving mercy, and endeavoring to make our fellow-creatures happy." *Thomas Paine*

"If America had only a twentieth part of the naval force of Britain, she would be by far an over-match for her; because, as we neither have, nor claim any foreign dominion, our whole force would be employed on our own coast." *Thomas Paine*

"That there are men in all countries who get their living by war, and by keeping up the quarrels of Nations is as shocking as it is true." *Thomas Paine*

Paine also wryly noted that, "To establish any mode to abolish war, however advantageous it might be to Nations, would be to take from such Government the most lucrative of its branches." *Thomas Paine*

"War involves in its progress such a train of unforeseen circumstances that no human wisdom can calculate the end; it has but one thing certain, and that is to increase taxes." *Thomas Paine*

"It is pleasant to observe by what regular gradations we surmount the force of local prejudices, as we enlarge our acquaintance with the World." *Thomas Paine*

All quotations above are drawn from *The Radical Wrong:*

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NEVER TOLD US**



**Victor Daniels, Ph.D.**

**WASHINGTON, JEFFERSON, LINCOLN, AND OTHERS  
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